

CLAIMS

That which is claimed is:

1. An article of footwear for receiving a foot of a wearer, said article of footwear comprising:

an upper, and

a sole structure attached to said upper which includes a midsole and an outsole, said midsole including a compressible first support element located above a portion of said outsole and in a back-lateral corner of said sole structure, a lower surface of said first support element having a downward bevel in a lateral-to-medial and back-to-front direction.

2. The article of footwear of claim 1, wherein said midsole includes a compressible second support element located in a back-medial corner of said sole structure, a compressible third support element located on a lateral side of said sole structure and forward of said first support element, and a compressible fourth support element located on a medial side of said sole structure and forward of said second support element.

3. The article of footwear of claim 2, wherein said support elements are connected by a common base.

4. The article of footwear of claim 2, wherein said downward bevel is generally directed toward a center of a calcaneus bone of the wearer.

5. The article of footwear of claim 2, wherein a line extending in the direction of said downward bevel forms an intersection with a longitudinal centerline of said footwear, said intersection forming an angle in the range of 30 to 60 degrees.

6. The article of footwear of claim 2, wherein said first support element is formed of a generally cylindrical wall, said wall having an exterior surface and an opposite interior surface, said interior surface defining an interior void that extends through an upper surface of said first support element.

7. The article of footwear of claim 6, wherein said sole structure includes a heel plate and a base plate, said heel plate attaching to said upper surface and said base plate attaching to said lower surface.

8. The article of footwear of claim 7, wherein said sole structure includes an outsole attached to said base plate, at least a portion of said outsole underlying said first support element and having an outsole bevel that corresponds with said downward bevel of said first support element.

9. The article of footwear of claim 1, wherein said bevel departs from a horizontal plane to form an angle with said horizontal plane in the range of 5 to 10 degrees.

10. An article of footwear for receiving a foot of a wearer, said article of footwear comprising:

an upper, and

a sole structure attached to said upper which includes a midsole and an outsole, said midsole including a compressible first support element located in a back-lateral corner of said sole structure, said first support element having a cylindrical configuration, a lower surface of said first support element having a downward bevel in a lateral-to-medial and back-to-front direction.

11. The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein said midsole includes a compressible second support element located in a back-medial corner of said sole structure, a compressible third support element located on a lateral side of said sole structure and forward of said first support element, and a compressible fourth support element located on a medial side of said sole structure and forward of said second support element.

12. The article of footwear of claim 11, wherein said second, third, and fourth support elements have a cylindrical configuration.

13. The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein said downward bevel departs from a horizontal plane to form an angle with said horizontal plane in the range of 5 to 10 degrees.

14. The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein said downward bevel is generally directed toward a center of a calcaneus bone of the wearer.

15. The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein a line extending in the direction of said downward bevel forms an intersection with a longitudinal centerline of said footwear, said intersection forming an angle in the range of 30 to 60 degrees.

16. The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein said first support element includes an interior void that extends through an upper surface of said first support element.

17. The article of footwear of claim 16, wherein said sole structure includes a heel plate and a base plate, said heel plate attaching to said upper surface and said base plate attaching to said lower surface.

18. The article of footwear of claim 17, wherein said sole structure includes an outsole attached to said base plate, at least a portion of said outsole underlying said support element and having an outsole bevel that corresponds with said downward bevel of said first support element.

19. An article of footwear for receiving a foot of a wearer, said article of footwear comprising:

an upper, and

a sole structure attached to said upper which includes a midsole and an outsole, said midsole including four compressible support elements, each said support element having a columnar configuration, a first support element of said support elements

being located in a back-lateral corner of said sole structure, a lower surface of said first support element having a downward bevel in a lateral-to-medial and back-to-front direction.

20. The article of footwear of claim 19, wherein said downward bevel is generally directed toward a center of a calcaneus bone of the wearer.

21. The article of footwear of claim 19, wherein a line extending in the direction of said downward bevel forms an intersection with a longitudinal centerline of said footwear, said intersection forming an angle in the range of 30 to 60 degrees.

22. The article of footwear of claim 19, wherein said downward bevel departs from a horizontal plane to form an angle with said horizontal plane in the range of 5 to 10 degrees.

23. The article of footwear of claim 19, wherein said sole structure includes a heel plate and a base plate, said heel plate and said base plate attaching to said support elements.

24. The article of footwear of claim 23, wherein said sole structure includes an outsole attached to said base plate, at least a portion of said outsole underlying said support elements and having an outsole bevel that corresponds with said downward bevel of said first support element.

25. The article of footwear of claim 19, wherein said support elements include an exterior surface and an opposite interior surface, said interior surface defining an interior void that extends through an upper surface of said support elements.